



## ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

*Behavioral Health Department*  
4000 Ambassador Drive (HCB)  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Telephone: 907-729-4594  
Facsimile: 907-729-2924

April 1, 2013

To Whom it May Concern

I am writing on behalf of The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium- Behavioral Health Department to express support of Alaska Children's Services effort to expand its services to working in rural Alaska. ANTHC- Behavioral Health provides program support and technical assistance to all tribal behavioral health providers in the state and manages the Behavioral Health Aide certification program.

I am aware of Alaska Children's Services efforts to build a Statewide Behavioral Health Distance Based Training and Delivery System. As I understand it The Behavioral Health Distance Based Training and Delivery System being planned by Alaska Children's Services will support local assets by training families, children, informal supports, educators and professional working throughout rural Alaska. The program will both augment the services already provided and meet unmet needs where voids exist.

I applaud the staff of Alaska Children's Services for reaching beyond their tradition services in an attempt to meet the needs of the children and families outside of the Anchorage area. Furthermore, I support any attempt to keep kids safely in their home and home community. By providing prevention and early intervention services in the villages Alaska Children's Services has as its primary goal to work with village elders, family members, youth and others to provide needed services before situations are such that requires an out of home placement. Their sensitivity to cultural norms and stated goal of participating on in villages where they are invited speaks to their understanding of Alaska village culture.

Alaska Children's Services has a long record of successfully providing culturally appropriate services to children and families of Alaska. In reaching out beyond their historical borders, I am hopeful that this will promote more services to children and families outside of the larger population centers. Given a history of excellence in connecting with other providers throughout the state, I feel that this program may have an impact far beyond the sum of its parts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Báez", is written over a light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Laura Báez, LCSW, LPC  
BH Director